

Blind gives people the confidence and independence to contribute to society and fulfill personal dreams of having a job. In so doing, they transform lives.

In my Congressional District in Western North Carolina, Industries for the Blind of Asheville has served as an important resource for 20 years. They provide much needed assistance and services such as mobile low-vision eye exams, innovative outreach programs for children and families, and optical services to our veterans. I would especially like to congratulate Industries for the Blind of Asheville on its eighth consecutive win of a Sky High Growth Award from the Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce for outstanding growth in sales and employment. The Asheville facility has increased its work force ten-fold since 1991, growing from just 9 employees to 100.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to rise today to recognize the 75 years of civic leadership that Industries for the Blind has provided the visually impaired in Asheville, North Carolina and throughout the country. Their commitment to helping others live meaningful lives is courageous and uplifting. I am honored to celebrate Industries for the Blind's inspirational role in our community.

A TRIBUTE TO DOTTIE AND
DARRELL RUSHER

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dottie and Darrell Rusher for being the recipients of the Family Tradition Award at the 2011 Humboldt County Spirit Awards.

The Humboldt County Spirit Awards were established to recognize and honor outstanding groups and individuals who have worked for the benefit of all citizens of Humboldt County, to celebrate the accomplishments and activities of our communities, to acknowledge the value of volunteerism in the county, and to have a positive impact on community spirit.

Annually included in the Spirit Awards, the Family Tradition Award is presented to a family who demonstrates support and devotion to the community through volunteerism. Dottie and Darrell have truly exhibited both support and commitment to Humboldt County for many years.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to represent Dottie and Darrell in the United States Congress. I know that my colleagues join me in commending them for their sincere dedication to establishing a better community and I wish them continued success well into the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GEOFF DAVIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2011

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, May 11, 2011, I was unexpectedly detained for one vote.

Had I been present I would have voted: on rollcall No. 302—"no"—Hanabusa of Hawaii

amendment No. 4, an amendment to H.R. 1229, Putting the Gulf of Mexico Back to Work Act.

CELEBRATING THE THIRD ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE INAUGURA-
TION OF TAIWANESE PRESIDENT
MA YING-JEUO

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2011

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, May 20, 2011 marks the third anniversary of the Inauguration of Taiwanese President Ma Ying-jeou.

Much has transpired in those three years. Wars continue to plague our society. However, in the Taiwan Strait, tensions have abated and much of the credit must be given to President Ma for the courageous efforts he has made to lessen the tensions between China and the Republic of China (Taiwan).

While protecting the interests of the people of Taiwan, President Ma has made marked progress in the dialogue between the People's Republic of China (mainland China) and the Republic of China (Taiwan), thereby advancing peace in the Pacific.

For this he is to be congratulated and commended and we wish him much continued success.

A TRIBUTE TO LEROY AND JAN
JORGENSEN

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Leroy and Jan Jorgensen for being the recipients of the Neighborhood Beautification Award at the 2011 Humboldt County Spirit Awards.

The Humboldt County Spirit Awards were established to recognize and honor outstanding groups and individuals who have worked for the benefit of all citizens of Humboldt County, to celebrate the accomplishments and activities of our communities, to acknowledge the value of volunteerism in the county, and to have a positive impact on community spirit.

Annually included in the Spirit Awards, the Neighborhood Beautification Award is presented to recognize an individual or group who has set an example by improving, beautifying and restoring Humboldt neighborhoods. Mr. and Mrs. Jorgensen were nominated this year because of the enjoyment the residents of Humboldt receive from their gardens. They are often kind enough to host programs on gardening to assist others beautifying their homes and neighborhoods.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to represent Leroy and Jan in the United States Congress. I know that my colleagues join me in commending them for their sincere dedication to establishing a better community and wish them continued success well into the future.

HONORING U.S. ARMY STAFF SER-
GEANT MATTHEW HERMANSON'S
SERVICE IN AFGHANISTAN

HON. REID J. RIBBLE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2011

Mr. RIBBLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor the life and sacrifice of Staff Sergeant Matthew D. Hermanson of Appleton, Wisconsin, who died on April 28, 2011, in Wardak Province, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Staff Sgt. Hermanson was assigned to A Company, 2nd Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment, 10th Mountain Division, Fort Polk, Louisiana.

Mr. Speaker, Staff Sgt. Hermanson embodied the best qualities of a true American soldier. His service has made Northeast Wisconsin and his country proud. He was selfless, dedicated and brave. During his service, Matthew earned the respect of his peers and numerous medals and honors for valor including the Bronze Star and Purple Heart. He is remembered by his family and friends as a man of strong character, a dedicated husband and son who believed in family and community.

It is my honor to commemorate him and I urge my colleagues to join me today in honoring the life of Staff Sergeant Matthew D. Hermanson for the sacrifice he has made for the United States.

A TRIBUTE TO SALLY GORDON

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2011

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Ms. Sally Gordon. At the age of 102, Sally concluded 37 years of dedicated service to the Legislature of State of Nebraska when she retired as its assistant sergeant-at-arms on April 26, 2011.

Known for colorful hats and scarves, her signature flair, Sally has a long history in Lincoln, Nebraska. She watched the Nebraska Capitol being built from 1922 to 1932 and served as secretary to three governors. But in 1984, she became an institution in the Nebraska Legislature. Sally became the state's first female sergeant-at-arms, a role she relished. She helped maintain order and deliver messages from constituents to state senators on the floor.

Sally's quick wit and sunny disposition was admired by all who met her, including myself. It was my honor to work with Sally when I served as a Nebraska State Senator because she was always friendly, helpful, and inspiring. Sally's character is best reflected when she said, "I've been working for 84 years and I've had many interesting jobs. I've met movie stars and presidents, but the people of Nebraska are the ones I love."

In 2010, Sally was named "America's Outstanding Oldest Worker" by Experience Works, and for good reason. Often called the "Energizer Bunny," Sally is a Nebraska treasure who models a productive life no matter your age.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in commending the career of Ms. Sally Gordon as she begins her well-deserved retirement.